

A Dissertation  
 on Menstruation  
 by H. McCall  
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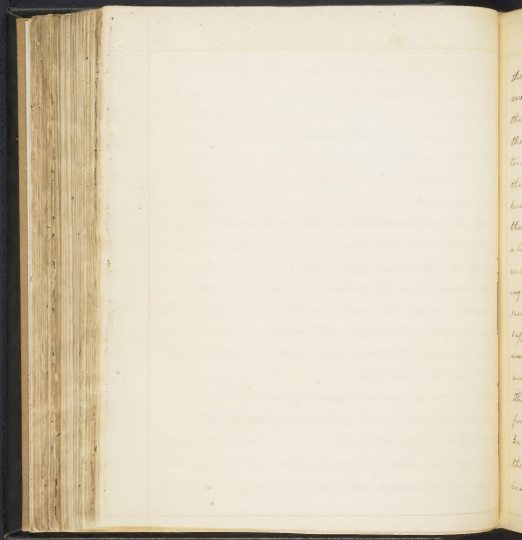
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### A dissertation upon Menstruation

Menstruation is a monthly discharge which takes place from the uterus, of every healthy woman, whose genital organs are well formed, on her arrival at the age of puberty. At this time the organs of generation develop themselves completely. The uterine vessels, which are serpentine and frequently tortuous: straiten themselves and become enlarged in their caliber, in proportion to the enlargement of the organ, through which, they are distributed. In this rapid development of the parts, subservient to the function of generation, a much greater supply of blood, is required from the general circulation.

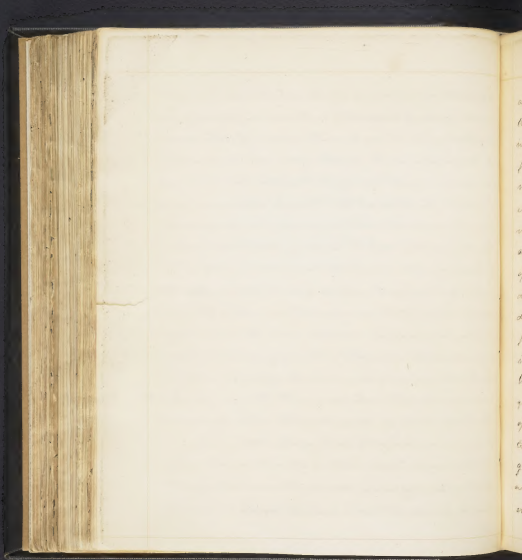
This increased quantity of blood is derived from the spermatic, and hypogastric arteries. The structure of the uterus, and the circuitous direction of its vessels, is admirably adapted, for the retention of the blood until the all important secretion of the menstrual fluid can be accomplished.

That the menses are a secretion, I infer from the uterus being analogous to a gland in its structure, and from the difference found to exist, between this fluid, and blood drawn from any other part of the system. The secretory action of the uterus, has been ably, and satisfactorily established by the present Professor of

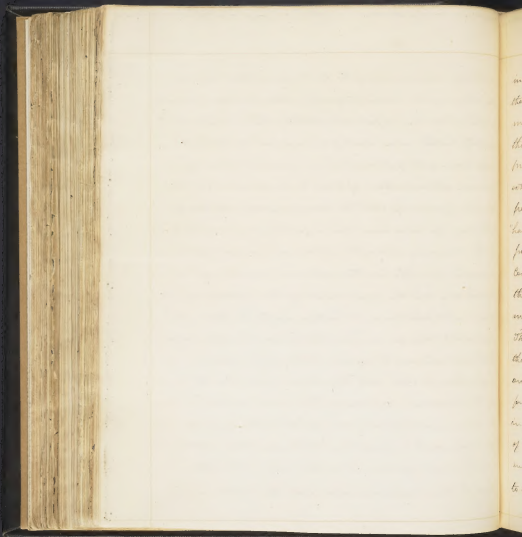


the practice of medicine in this country. The first flow of the  
menses appears to be dependant on the venereal propensity, from  
the following facts. 1.<sup>st</sup> we know the venereal appetite increases  
the temperature of the genital organs, and this increased  
temperature must be owing to the greater determination of  
the blood to the uterus at that time. 2.<sup>nd</sup> No woman has been  
known to menstruate, without previously having experienced  
the desire of the male. 3.<sup>rd</sup> Women of a robust constitution, and  
a libidinous nature "menstruate much more copiously" 4.<sup>th</sup> In  
many animals of the inferior order, the discharge from the  
vagina, which at the commencement, was nothing but a mucous  
secretion, becomes tinged with blood when the venereal propensity  
suffers a violent exaltation: This sanguineous excretion,  
would certainly, never have made its appearance, had a free  
and uninterrupted intercourse with the male, been permitted.  
This bloody discharge obviates monthly returns so long, as the  
female is, deprived of the society of the male.

In libidinous I infer, that, as the first excretion from  
the human vagina, is colourless, thin, and returning at  
irregular periods, it becomes gradually regular in its periods



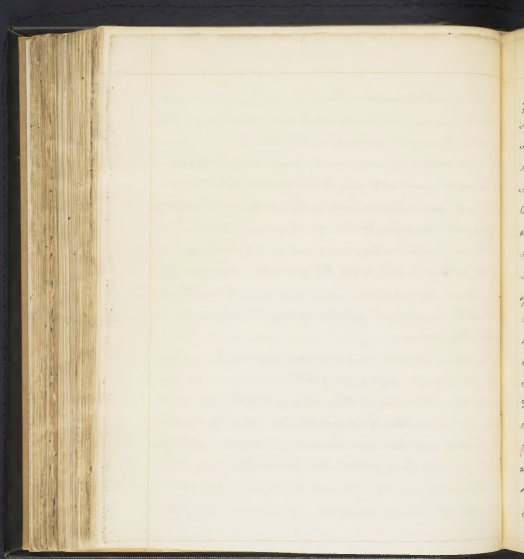
and bloody, in consequence of the continual irritation kept up in the uterus, by the venereal frequency, which, produces a reaction in that viscus. It is a fact well established, that a natural and perfectly healthy action existing in any part of the system, may become entirely changed in every aspect, by causing an unusual determination of blood to its situation. In this manner effusions of blood take place, in persons who die of apoplexy. In some cases blood is found effused in the cavity of the cranium, when the rupture of no vessel can be discovered; here the healthy action, is converted into a diseased one, and the vessels instead of their natural reaction pour out blood. Since it has been ascertained that much important changes, may result, from much trivial causes. Is it not rational to suppose, that, whatever occasions a greater flow of blood into the uterine system, is the cause of this periodical evacuation? The venereal appetite is known to cause a great determination of blood to the organs of generation, and in proportion to the quantity so determined, and the length of time it is detained in the uterus, must be the impression, made upon the vessels concerned





in the menstrual secretion. From these premises, it is evident, that the venereal inoculation does produce the flow of the menses. It may be demanded if this was the case, why are there not instances of women, who having indulged their first propensities never menstruate? To this I answer, that, it is so extremely rare to find a female, who, indulges her first propensity freely, and regularly, that the discharge will come, and "habit and second nature" will establish its periods and fixed returns. I must make the same observation respecting Courtesans whose passions are under no restraint, in them, the habit having been very early acquired, still observes its monthly rounds.

The uterus appears in a peculiar manner, to be under the all powerful influence of habit, when an action, has once taken place in it, there is a remarkable predisposition for its return. This has frequently been observed by Physicians in women, who have once miscarried, no matter what length of time, may have elapsed from the abortion till the subsequent pregnancy, the woman is still very liable to suffer the same misfortune, at the same time of her











of the father in life. For several years, the influence of the  
sire, during the early period of his life, is not so direct  
sympathy existing between the sire and the  
colony. If the sire is kept in a state of  
low vitality, the influence of the sire is not so direct,  
as it is, in the early period of his life. The influence of the  
colony of the sire is not so direct, as it is, in the early  
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colony is not so direct, as it is, in the early period of his life.

But as the child increases in age, the influence of the  
sire is not so direct, as it is, in the early period of his life.  
The influence of the colony is not so direct, as it is, in the  
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the same entirely disappears. The same also seems  
have been explained many important experiments of the  
tobacco and it appears to take place.

From the distribution of the veins and bloodvessels of  
the same and tubule being exactly the same, and derived  
from the same source in both parts, we may rationally  
suppose that exert a similar influence upon their  
respective system of generation, and furnish them with  
that power, by which, their growth and development is  
affected. From further views into the opinion that  
they must be under some very similar, upon their  
respective genital systems, from the identity of the  
source to which they are subject. They are both liable  
to drying and tuberosity, which affords us a direct  
opposition to that healthy action of the system necessary  
to the reproduction of the species.

By the sympathetic meeting between the veins and the  
tubules, we are enabled to explain their influence in  
menstruation.

If there is much mutation in any part of the



generative system that part becomes a centre of pressure toward  
which all the nervous and vascular force, and thus in  
preparation to the possibility of its part is opposed, of this  
second determination is similar to the manner it must be  
the ventral action of the uterus while it exists.

And here the uterine contractions by the introduction of the  
that in most cases of obstinate amenorrhoea the uterus  
was the original seat of the disease.

In some cases of amenorrhoea there exists an organic lesion,  
which prevents the flow of the menses. May not the caput  
of the uterus form this obstruction as it does in some cases  
as in some determinations of blood to the nearest source it  
is evident the obstruction is not in the uterus, even at  
a young age, by its exclusion. As there is then a mechanical  
obstruction to the flow, consequently the formation of the  
menses was not incompatible with that action.

The same obstruction has been said to prevent conception,  
but the existence of it, out of the function is not only  
possible, since it is not only known to exist, but is  
compatible a situation in the present theory of conception.



[illegible]

1. There is a unity of the elements and laws of the system.  
2. The elements are the same in the same system.  
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These conditions may be due to a lower viscosity than that in the  
 case of a mixture of the same gases, then estimated  
 pressures are comparable to that of a pure gas, but with  
 a great obstruction, then the pressure is lower. Other  
 possible differences are those which depend on the heat conduct  
 ivity,  $\sigma$ , of the gases.

From the above premises it appears that the introduction  
of the paper money or coin is essential to the wealth  
of the system, as to prevent the creation of the money



... means unscrupulous action is much more generally the effect  
to ... of ... other ... of the ...  
... nevertheless ... effect ... of the ... which ... to its  
... of ... in a ... at ... it ... over the  
... whole system, but ... we ... between the ... are ...  
... and ... under the influence of the ... not, ... as ...  
... increased by their frequent occurrence ... as ... as ... it ...  
... which only ... and ... feel ... it ... ... of ...  
... of ... the fact, ... a religious ... that ... knowledge ...  
... darkness ... and ... have ... an ... to ...  
... of these ... in ... and ... from a ... "deliberate" ...  
... are causing concern, which he ... we ... as frequent  
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alluded to, is caused by the derangement of the menstrual secretion, which derangement originates from the once obnoxious of their rigid and pernicious laws.

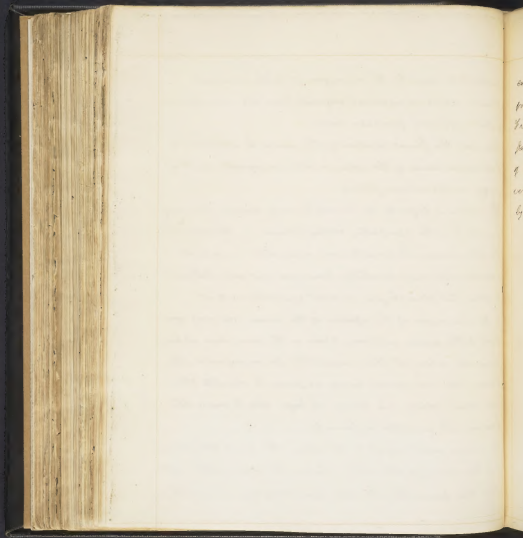
May not the final cessation of the menses be attributed to the gradual decay of the system, and the consequent want of energy in the uterine fibres?

This cessation is frequently the prelude to many diseases, which may originate from the sympathy existing between the uterus, and the other viscera. The discontinuance of an action in a part endowed with much sensibility, produces not only that part to decay, but those likewise in direct sympathy with it.

In the phenomena of the cessation of the menses, we may again advert to the ovarian influence, so soon as the ovaries have all been impregnated or have lost their susceptibility for impregnation, the uterine cells and sinuses having no power to stimulate them into action, collapse, and become no longer able to receive the blood in such quantities as formerly.

The ovaries must impart to the uterus the power to conceive, and the desire of that object which is to consummate conception.

Thus the ovaries fit the uterus for conception, and are the



cause of the venereal appetite, which, I have endeavored to  
prove is the cause of menstruation.

From the foregoing premises, I conclude that the sanguine  
flux from the human vagina, like, that from the vagina,  
of the inferior animals depends upon excretion of the  
venereal appetite and that it has regular periods established  
by habit.

